UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.159/SR.438
9 May 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 438th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 30 March 1995, at 3 p.m.

Temporary Chairman: Mr. KHERADI (Sri Lanka)
(Senior Adviser to the Ad Hoc Committee)

Chairman: Mr. DE SILVA (Sri Lanka)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.55 p.m.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

1. The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN said that, since the Ad Hoc Committee's previous session, there had been considerable changes in the Bureau: Mr. Kheradi (Sri Lanka), Chairman, and Mr. Ratotondramboa (Madagascar), Rapporteur, having completed their tours of duty, had left Headquarters, and Mr. Griffin (Australia), Vice-Chairman, would soon be leaving New York too. For that reason, the request made to the Chairman by the General Assembly in resolution 49/82, paragraph 5, had not been met. In order to remedy that situation, informal consultations had been held in the Bureau, and a decision had been taken to hold a short organizational meeting so as to elect a new Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur. An understanding had been reached that the current meeting would be included in the total duration of the Committee's 1995 session laid down in General Assembly resolution 49/82, paragraph 7. The Bureau had decided to recommend that the Committee should hold the remaining nine meetings of its 1995 session from 19 to 23 June 1995.

2. Following informal consultations, the Bureau proposed that Mr. De Silva (Sri Lanka) should be elected Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee.

3. Mr. De Silva (Sri Lanka) was elected Chairman by acclamation.

4. Mr. De Silva (Sri Lanka) took the Chair.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that his country's participation in the Ad Hoc Committee's work went back to the Committee's establishment in 1972. The Committee's mandate and methods of work reflected the situation of the Indian Ocean region at that time. In the mid-1990s the situation in the region was completely different. The Committee had reacted in many ways to the changed situation in the region. In recent years it had studied new alternative approaches to the strengthening of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region. Throughout the world, and also in the region, there had been a positive development of events. In particular, the establishment of a democratic, non-racial Government in South Africa, the unfolding of the peace process in the Middle East and the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea had contributed to a climate of trust and cooperation.

6. During the Committee's discussions in the previous year it had been clearly recognized that at the stage when the Committee was actively engaged in the consideration and formulation of new approaches, it would be particularly valuable for all the permanent members of the Security Council, and also the major maritime users, to take part in its work. Three permanent members of the Security Council (the United Kingdom, the United States of America and France) were not participating in the Committee's work. The General Assembly, in resolution 49/82, paragraph 5, had requested the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to apprise the Governments of the permanent members of the Security Council concerned and the major maritime users of the progress of work in the Committee, and to consult with them in order to encourage their renewed

participation and cooperation in the work of the Committee. In that connection he expressed the hope that at the Committee's June session he would be able to report on the reaction of the three permanent members and the major maritime users to that paragraph of the resolution.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN

7. The CHAIRMAN said that, following the departure of the Vice-Chairman, the Government of Australia had put forward the candidacy of Ms. Hamilton for that post. The Bureau had had an opportunity to consider the candidacy and unanimously recommended her for the post of Vice-Chairman. He took it that the Committee wished to elect Ms. Hamilton to the post of Vice-Chairman.

8. Ms. Hamilton (Australia) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

9. The CHAIRMAN said that, following the departure of the Rapporteur, the Government of Madagascar had put forward the candidacy of Mrs. Lingaya for that post. The Bureau supported that recommendation. He took it that the Committee wished to elect Mrs. Lingaya to the post of Rapporteur.

10. Mrs. Lingaya (Madagascar) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

11. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the provisional agenda in document A/AC.159/L.122 and suggested that it should be adopted as the agenda for the forthcoming session.

12. The agenda was adopted.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

13. The CHAIRMAN said that, because of the convening of the current organizational meeting, the number of meetings allocated to the Ad Hoc Committee for its forthcoming session had been reduced by one. Thus, the Committee would hold its session from 19 to 23 June 1995, and would have nine meetings. He proposed that that plan of work should be approved.

14. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.